

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the thorough examination of the present application and the indication that claims 13-21 contain allowable subject matter. Claims 1, 3-6, 8-12 and 22-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by Kunikiyo (US 6,717,267). Claim 7 is rejected 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Kunikiyo. Claims 2 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Kunikiyo in view of Khan et al (US 6,853,070). Claims 22-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite. Finally, claims 13-21 are objected to as allegedly dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejected claims based on the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 13. Consequently, this amendment raises now new issues and patentably defines claim 1 over the cited art of record. Claims 13 and 22-25 are cancelled without prejudiced.

Claim 1

Claim 1 is amended to recite the “the plurality of interconnect structures are substantially enveloped in a dielectric film” feature of claim 13. It is therefore submitted that amended claim 1 is patentable. As claims 2-12 and 14-21 directly or indirectly depend from amended claim 1, claims 2-12 and 14-21 are patentable by virtue of their dependency from patentable amended claim 1.

For all of these reasons, Applicant submits that this application is now in condition for allowance. Prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

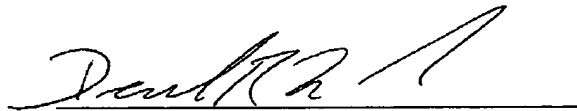
CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

No fee is believed to be due in connection with this amendment and response to Office Action. If, however, any fee is believed to be due, you are hereby authorized to charge any such fee to deposit account No. 20-0778.

Respectfully submitted,



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